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Rehabilitation centre fined after probe into allegations of inhumane treatment; patients, families, docs talks of centres that flout all human rights in the guise of de-addiction care

REHAB BLUES

All centres required to obtain licence, follow regulations

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When 45-year-old realtor Jeevantham was admitted by his family to a rehabilitation centre in Bellandur in 2022, his health was just fine. However, the deaddiction and mental health treatment turned out to be ruse for a murky property dispute and Jeevantham was subjected to prolonged torture and physical abuse.

After a probe revealed the horrors going on inside Nava Jeevana Foundation, the District Health and Family Welfare Department on Monday sealed the centre and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh upon it.

The detailed investigation was conducted by the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), which uncovered shocking instances of torture and inhumane treatment inflicted on Jeevantham.

Investigations revealed that Jeevantham's admission to the centre was driven by a property dispute within his family. Instead of receiving treatment, he was subjected to daily physical abuse and was denied access to his friends.

Determined to escape his ordeal, Jeevantham managed to file a complaint with the SHRC detailing the abuse he faced. Acting on his complaint, a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Sudhir

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"Such mistreatment often pushes individuals toward more severe addiction, leading them to relapse, develop resentment towards their families, or even cut ties and disappear" —Dr Sachin Baliga, psychiatrist

NOT THE BEST IDEA

Mobility experts, public transport proponents pan double-decker flyover plan that is being dubbed futuristic

PAGE 5

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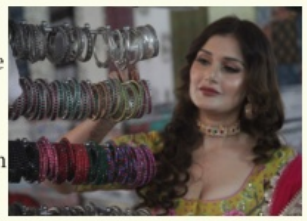
THINGS TO DO

01 Handicraft exhibition



Visit the handicrafts exhibition and sale organised by the Grand Flea Market to shop from an exquisite collection of handicrafts, handloom fabrics, items crafted by artisans from across India. The exhibition features a diverse range of handmade products, reflecting the cultural heritage of different regions of the country. **Where: Chitrakala Parishat; When: Till February 23**

02 Singles mixer

Aisle Network is organising a 'Single Mixer Jam Evening', an evening filled with music, conversation, set to bring together like-minded individuals in a setting designed for old-school romance. The evening will be a platform if you are looking way to meet new people. **Where: The Hub, Bengaluru; When: February 8, 5 pm onwards**

03 Arts & crafts

Maaruthi Enterprises is hosting an exhibition bringing together rural artisans from different parts of India. The exhibition will showcase vast collections of handlooms, handicrafts, sarees, and many other exquisite items featuring unique folk craftsmanship. **Where: 1st Main Road, Yadav Farm, Eshwara Layout Bus Stop, JP Nagar; When: February 8 to 20, 10 am to 9 pm**

04 Classical music

Sanjog Charitable Trust invites all music lovers to a day-long music festival featuring Indian classical music and instruments. With performances by many masterful musicians, the event will also celebrate tabla maestro and Padma Shri awardee Taalyogi Pandit Suresh Talwalkar. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: February 16, 10 am onwards**

05 Theatrical treat

A play by Arena theatre productions explores modern relationships and its complexities. The play will show how relationships need therapy and social media validation to achieve completion. **Where: Atta Galatta- The Bookstore, Indiranagar; When: February 8 at 4 pm and 7 pm onwards, February 9 at 7 pm onwards**

Not all fun and games when playground is taken over

Organising political events at ground is misuse of facility, say activists

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Arrangements are in progress at the playground, Jogupalya

Residents and child rights activists are up in arms against Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities allowing private entities and politicians to use a playground meant for nearby government and BBMP schools at Jogupalya in Shantinagar Assembly constituency.

Residents claim that politicians and their supporters use the playground under one or the other pretext. The residents said that the playground was occupied by the supporters of a politician a few days ago for his birthday celebrations. They said that the playground is also being misused to organise a political event on Friday evening.

"The playground is meant for the public and school children. It is certainly not meant for organising political events. It is not clear whether the organisers took permission from the competent authorities to organise the function. We have already informed the BBMP authorities and they visited the spot but did nothing to stop misusing the playground," said BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru.

Previously, the City Civil and Sessions Judge had issued an injunction order on July 15, 2022, restraining the defendants from utilising a playground at Vijinapura for any other purpose other than that of a playground. Bangalore Mirror published the story "Hands off playground, BBMP" on September 7, 2022, narrating how Cauvery Playground at Vijinapura was being used to organise birthday functions and private programmes.

The residents of Jogupalya said that organising private events during the school hours not only deprives students of access to the playground but also causes noise pollution, thus making it difficult for the students to focus on lessons. "Organising events at playgrounds has become routine not only at Jogupalya but also at other wards in the city. It is the responsibility of the BBMP authorities to avoid politicians organising events at the playground," said Naveen Kumar R, a resident of Halasuru.

Stating that the lack of playgrounds in Bengaluru is a serious concern, Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust said that the use of playgrounds by political parties for their own programs is a clear violation of Article 31 of the UNCRC, which states that children have the right to rest, leisure, and play. "Playgrounds are essential for children's physical and mental development. They provide a safe space for kids to engage in physical activity, socialize with peers, and develop important life skills like teamwork and communication," he said. He added that without access to playgrounds, children are forced to find alternative ways to entertain themselves, often turning to mobile devices and screens. "Parents in Bengaluru are right to be concerned about their children's mobile addiction, and the lack of playgrounds is only exacerbating the problem," he said.

> **"We have already informed the BBMP authorities and they visited the spot but did nothing to stop misusing the playground**
> – BR Chandran, social activist

When contacted, Mahesh Chintu, a local Congress activist, stated that he has obtained permissions from the BBMP to organise a function at the playground. "I have paid the specified fee to the BBMP for using the playground," he said.

BBMP Executive Engineer Muni Reddy said that he was informed by the Joint Commissioner about a private event being organised at the playground. "I have asked the Assistant Executive Engineer to look into the matter," said the Executive Engineer.

Responding to the matter, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer said that he is not authorised to issue permissions or collect fees from the public for using the playground.

HC declines dismissal of POCSO case against BSY

The High Court declined to dismiss the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case against former Chief Minister and BJP leader BS Yeddiyurappa on Friday. However, the court found the trial court's cognisance order liable to be obliterated.

The court determined that there existed sufficient evidence, including a verified audio recording linking Yeddiyurappa to the allegations. Forensic analysis confirmed the authenticity of his voice and the mobile device's integrity. The court specified this evidence warranted trial examination, rather than indicating guilt. "These matters would undoubtedly require to be thrashed out in a full-blown trial," the judge observed.

The court noted that this could have led to rejecting Yeddiyurappa's petition entirely, if not for the inadequate trial court order dated July 4, 2024, regarding the alleged offence.

The High Court found the trial court's order severely lacking, stating, "The bald, laconic and cryptic order of the (trial) Court is what merits the partial entertainment of the petition ... The order of taking cognizance and issuing of process does not bear even a semblance of application of mind. It runs completely counter to the necessity under Section 190(1) (b) or Section 204 of the CrPC as elucidated by the Apex Court."

Consequently, the court nullified the trial court's cognisance order against Yeddiyurappa and co-accused individuals suspected of evidence suppression. The court directed, "The order of taking cognizance ... stands obliterated. The crime, the investigation and the final report, all remain intact. The matter is remitted back to the hands of the concerned court to pass appropriate orders on the final report so placed before it by the CID, bearing in mind the observations made in the course of the order."

Justice Nagaprasanna emphasised that trial courts must not function merely as post offices for prosecution. The order's failure to reference CrPC Section 204 whilst its issuing was also noted. The CID's defence that cognisance of such orders were common in 80 percent of cases, failed to convince the court.

Justice Nagaprasanna stated that this practice could not justify continuing procedural irregularities or illegalities. **– BMB**

MUDA case: Plea for transfer to CBI dismissed

The Karnataka High Court on Friday dismissed Snehamayi Krishna's plea to transfer the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam' investigations from Lokayukta to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), stating that seeking such a transfer merely because one of the accused is a sitting Chief Minister is unacceptable.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the petitioner's submission regarding the transfer was due to the involvement of a sitting Chief Minister. "The echo that the reference of investigation should be made to the CBI, as one of the accused is a sitting Chief Minister, is un-acceptance, as none of the maladies illustrated by the Apex Court are present in the case at hand," said the court, responding to the petitioner's argument.

The court highlighted that no precedent exists where investigations were transferred from independent bodies like Lokpal or Lokayukta to the CBI. Citing previous investigations against former chief ministers, including BS Yediyurappa and HD Kumaraswamy, the court affirmed Lokayukta's independence and competence. The judgement emphasised that institutional integrity, rather than personal integrity, is paramount. It affirmed Lokayukta's demonstrated ability to conduct unbiased investigations against high-ranking officials.

The court directed the Lokayukta to submit its final report to the concerned court, allowing the petitioner to pursue available legal remedies. **– BMB**

In pursuit of free smokes, man gets aggressive

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In yet another case of rowdyism, a shopkeeper on Koramangala 80 Feet Road Second Stage was allegedly threatened by a man wielding a long stick after he refused to give him free cigarettes. The incident, which took place under the Adugodi police station limits, was caught on camera and quickly went viral on social media. This is the second such incident targeting shopkeepers in the last two months.

The video shows the miscreant storming into the shop, brandishing a long stick, and demanding cigarettes without paying. When the shopkeeper refused, he waved the stick menacingly before walking away with the items.

Police officials confirmed that the accused has been arrested and identified as a first-time offender. A police spokesperson explained, "The accused is someone who usually relied on his wife for money to drink and smoke. On that day, she refused to give him money. He somehow managed to buy alcohol but had no money left for cigarettes. In desperation, he resorted to threatening shopkeepers."

In 2nd incident in 2 months, shopkeeper threatened; in this case man brandished stick to get cigarettes for free

Experts point to a complex interplay of factors that lead to such thuggery, including inadequate parenting, genetic predispositions, environmental stress, and even impaired brain development in adolescence. Mental health disorders can also contribute to such behaviour.

"Addiction alters priorities," explains Bhanu, a local psychologist. "Once a person becomes dependent on a substance, their priorities shift. The substance becomes their sole source of pleasure. To obtain the substance, they may resort to inappropriate behaviors like stealing or threatening, especially when they lack money. Addiction is influenced by both psychological and socioeconomic factors. Substances activate the brain's reward pathway, which give them high. Peer pressure, the desire to fit in, temptation, and social status also play significant roles," said Dr. Banu MR, Assistant Nursing Superintendent, NIMHANS.

In a similar incident last month, a bakery worker was assaulted over a cigarette payment dispute.

Tiff over money at tea shop leads cops to ATM thieves

Group of 6 arrested, ₹51.76 lakh seized; accused used to work in maintenance agency

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The Mahalaxmi Layout police have arrested six individuals involved in an ATM cash theft scam, recovering Rs 51.76 lakh in cash and three cars worth Rs 90 lakh.

Acting on a tip off received by the police about a group arguing over financial matters near a tea shop in Kempegowda Layout, on January 25, the police reached the spot and detained the suspects and seized Rs 43.76 lakh in cash. Further investigation revealed that the accused worked for an ATM maintenance agency and manipulated machines by underloading cash and retrieving passwords to steal money.

Subsequent searches led to the seizure of Rs 8 lakh from one accused's residence on January 27, while two others had used the stolen money to purchase cars, which were confiscated on January 28 and 30.

Chain-snatcher, jewel thief nabbed

The police have arrested a man involved in a gold chain snatching case reported in Jayanagar. The man is accused of snatching a 41-gram gold chain, valued at Rs 1.20 lakh, from the complainant's neck as they were walking to Shakhambari Nagar from the Banashankari Metro Station on January 26.

Following an investigation, the police traced the accused to his residence in Bidar district, and took him into custody on January 28. During interrogation, the accused admitted to the crime and revealed that he had pawned the chain at a finance firm in Bidar. On January 30, the accused's mother surrendered the stolen valuables to the police. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody.

Former employee of shop sells jewellery to other stores, scoots

In a separate case, the Halasuru gate police arrested a former jewellery shop employee for allegedly misappropriating gold ornaments worth Rs 50 lakh. The shop owner in Nagarathpet, reported the incident on January 12, accusing an ex-salesman of the shop entrusted with selling gold jewellery of having sold the ornaments in different shops across the city without returning the proceeds.

Police tracked the accused to Lucknow, where he was taken into custody on January 20. During interrogation, he admitted to selling the stolen gold in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, and hiding Rs 15 lakh in cash. Between January 23 and 24, the police recovered 500 grams of gold jewellery, gold bullion, and Rs 5 lakh in cash from multiple jewellery shops in Coimbatore.

Kannamangala panchayat sets example in waste processing

Empowered SHGs, sustainability initiatives help panchayat systematically tackle 72-88% of trash generated

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Residents hand over segregated waste to collection vehicles, each of which is accompanied by an SHG member

The Kannamangala Grama Panchayat has undergone a remarkable transformation, achieving 72-88% systematic waste processing. Previously, most waste was collected as mixed waste and often dumped on roadsides or vacant plots, sometimes even burned. However, with the support of various organisations, the Panchayat has now established an efficient waste processing system, marking a major improvement in waste management practices.

Organisations like Stonesoup Trust, Force GW, the Panchayat, and the Mahadevapura Task Force played a crucial role in implementing strategies to drive change. The key issues faced by the area included garbage dumping, mixed waste collection, lack of segregation, low awareness, and a floating population. To address these challenges, a structured approach was adopted, including household data collection, the formation of a Self-Help Group (SHG) team, signing an MoU, ensuring daily collection of segregated waste, and setting up a waste processing centre.

The initiative began in December 2022, but it took months to bring people together and streamline the process. "With permission from the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), we started working with 300 households. As per the RDPR guidelines, the Panchayat was directed to hand over solid waste management services to the local SHG. An MoU was signed between the SHG, the Panchayat, and Stonesoup Trust in November 2023, and a waste management awareness session was conducted at a government school. The initiative started with eight SHG members and soon expanded to 21. School children joined us for door-to-door campaigns, spreading awareness about segregation," said Malini Parmar, CEO of Stonesoup Trust.

Meticulous plan

Colour-coded bins were distributed to various households, and SHG members were trained in waste collection and processing. By March 2024, proper segregation was in place. Residents began handing over segregated waste to collection vehicles. The vehicle was accompanied by an SHG member who checked bins and ensured waste was disposed of in the correct compartment before being transported to the processing center. The center was set up using CSR funds.

The initiative expanded to cover multiple houses, gated communities, and low-income settlements, reaching around 4,000-5,000 homes.

"Once the wet waste reaches the processing center, it is composted and distributed to farmers. Some gated communities manage composting independently. For dry waste, we identified vendors and now sell it. The waste is sorted into 14 types and sold to local vendors and Saahas Zero Waste. On average, Rs 50,000 is generated monthly by selling recyclable waste," Parmar added.

Previously, many areas were littered with garbage. These sites were cleared, signboards warning of a Rs 5,000 fine for littering were put up, and the spaces were beautified with marshals deployed to prevent further dumping.

The initiative not only benefited the Panchayat but also empowered SHG members. "As a housewife, I was hesitant to take up this work, since I had no prior knowledge of waste management. Initially, I faced challenges and even humiliation from people questioning why I was doing this. But with encouragement from Stonesoup Trust, I took it as a challenge. Seeing the poor condition of our localities motivated me to continue. We were trained in waste management and started spreading awareness. People didn't know how to segregate waste, but we kept guiding them. Today, not only have I helped bring change, but I also have my own earnings for the first time," said Latha R, Supervisor of the SHG Processing Team.

> **"We got trained and started spreading awareness. People didn't know how to segregate waste, but we kept guiding them**
> – Latha R, SHG processing team

Lingaraj URS, Panchayat Member, highlighted the initiative's success, stating that waste management was a major issue post-Covid. "Land and funds were allocated for Kasa Centers in nine Panchayats, but expertise was lacking. Along with former MLA, Mahadevpura, Arvind Limbavali, we decided to engage waste management experts to address the problem. We then engaged SHG members to manage waste effectively. Today, 21 homemakers handle waste for 6,000 households and 82 small shops," he said.

Following this success, the organisations are now preparing for Phase Two, which includes setting up a library of donated books, a cutlery bank, a preloved clothing store, a repair center, and an upcycled products initiative. This holistic approach aims to make Kannamangala a model for sustainable waste management and community-driven initiatives.

BMTC expands bus ads to boost revenue amid losses

Bus advertising initiative aims to generate ₹67.3 crore annually, featuring eco-friendly ads

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Despite increased revenue from the Shakti scheme, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) continues to face financial losses. In a bid to enhance earnings, BMTC has now decided to expand advertising space on its buses, allowing for more extensive commercial displays. The corporation has approved advertising on 3,000 non-AC buses and 400 Volvo buses, expecting to generate ₹5.6 crore per month in revenue.

A senior official said, "BMTC has previously earned crores through bus advertisements. However, this time, it has designated all exterior surfaces of the buses for ads, except for the front and rear glass panels and passenger windows. Advertisers will be allocated 350 square feet of space per bus, priced at ₹15,000 per square foot, leading to a projected revenue of ₹201.6 crore over three years."

New advertising contract & guidelines

BMTC had invited tenders for this initiative in December 2023, awarding the three-year contract to an advertising agency, which submitted the highest bid. The contract stipulates that advertisements promoting alcohol, tobacco, or any content harmful to public interest are strictly prohibited. Additionally, all advertisements must comply with central and state government advertising policies. Any violation of these rules will result in legal action against the agency responsible.

"To ensure passenger convenience and regulatory compliance, advertising placement will exclude window glass and the back of passenger seats but will be permitted on lower glass panels and the space behind the driver. The BMTC logo, vehicle registration number, and depot details must remain unobstructed. Furthermore, all advertisement materials must be eco-friendly, and content must be displayed in Kannada. At the end of the contract period, BMTC mandates a repainting of all buses to restore their original appearance. In FY 2023-24, BMTC earned ₹21.39 crore from advertising. This year, the corporation has granted permission for ads on 3,000 additional non-AC buses, expecting to generate ₹67.3 crore in revenue within a year," added an official.

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Road blockage
Jayanagar

The parking lot at Jayanagar Metro Station is currently filled with ballasts, making it difficult for two-wheelers to navigate and increasing the risk of accidents. Commuters are facing significant inconvenience, and the situation poses a serious safety hazard. Metro authorities need to take immediate action to resolve this issue.

Footpath encroachment
Jayanagar

Vehicle encroachment on the footpath along 33rd Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. This issue remains a persistent issue, affecting pedestrian movement. This ongoing problem requires urgent attention from the authorities to ensure safe and needs immediate resolution.

Move it
Medahalli

An earth-mover is regularly illegaly parked in the middle of an Old Madras Road (36-49), Medahalli. The area is reportedly under the influence of a land mafia that has been operating here for years, causing frequent disruptions. Authorities need to intervene to address the issue and restore smooth traffic flow.

Building more flyovers won't solve traffic woes, say experts

Planners call ₹9,800 cr flyover futile; they urge govt to prioritise last-mile connectivity instead

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Bengaluru's longest double-decker flyover project between JP Nagar and Hebbal has received immediate rebukes and criticism from city-based mobility experts and public transport proponents.

The proposed corridor was inspected by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar on Thursday. Bengaluru's Development Minister, after carrying out the inspection, termed the proposal 'futuristic' and a 'game-changer'.

However, mobility experts say the road cum metro corridor project is a step in the wrong direction, which will bring down public transport ridership by encouraging more people to own private vehicles.

"Our recent research report shows that infrastructure projects such as tunnel roads and double-decker flyovers are only going to bring down the ridership and share of the public transport network. Our decision-makers are completely out of sync with scientific data and evidence regarding measures to ensure holistic development in the city," said Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The elevated road component along the metro corridor is estimated to cost Rs 9,800 crore and is expected to ease congestion on the western section of the outer ring road

Experts say flyover offers temporary relief, merely shifting congestion

However, experts say it will provide only temporary relief and shift the point of congestion. The quest to create more road space to only accommodate personal vehicles is an endless and futile exercise. Such interventions have long been past the expiry date in all parts of the world.

"These interventions do not lead to sustainability and improvement in the quality of life of citizens. It will only create a bottleneck at touchdown. In time, it will also have a spillover effect on the same flyover. The Government should ensure accessibility to every citizen and this can be achieved only through public transport. But with an ideal mix of trips happening by different modes. Bengaluru needs to have at least 80% of trips happening on public transport, walking, and cycling. It is achievable if we can implement at a very fast track the whole 400-plus kilometre network of urban rail and metro together," added Professor Verma.

Public transport proponents also highlight that Bengaluru's traffic problems can be effectively solved only after the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) is constituted under the Constitutional 74th Amendment (Nagarpalika) Act in 1992.

"Any development plan should be part of the city's master plan, initiated and authorised by MPC, which is lacking, rendering this project invalid. Moreover, once the metro line becomes operational, the road below will get decongested and will be available for private vehicles. This flyover is an overkill. All resources for the project should be used to develop first and last-mile connectivity to public transports systems. The government should amend the Stage Carriage Act to allow private players into this space," Sandeep Anirudhan, a public mobility proponent.

Experts also expressed concern over the proposal, which will lead to unnecessary delays on metro rail.

Homebuyers welcome HC directive

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Home buyers are happy with the High Court's direction to the government advocate to secure instructions and make submissions on the proposed New Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act.

A writ petition is filed in the High Court to issue an appropriate writ or order to the government to release the New Apartment Ownership Act in a time-bound manner and update the court on the status until the competent authority gets established.

Welcoming the High Court's direction to the government, home buyers said that they expect the state government to expedite the process of enacting the New Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act.

"As flat owners, we need proper directions from the government on registration. With the present directions of the High court, we hope the government clear this confusion and gives proper directions to the public and releases the new apartment act sooner," said Vani Kishore, a home buyer. Veteran Commander Surendra said, "The government has been dragging their feet for almost two years since taking over. This is one of the promises made in their manifesto. Hope the High Court takes up this quickly, provides clear directions."

Advertorial

Get Ready for an Electrifying Night with Thaikkudam Bridge – Bengaluru, Let's Rock the Stage!

Brace yourselves for an adrenaline-pumping musical spectacle as the sensational Thaikkudam Bridge brings their explosive energy to Bengaluru! Known for their genre-defying sound, powerhouse vocals, and electrifying live performances, this is a concert you simply cannot miss. Mark your calendars for February 28, 2025, at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, Bengaluru, where music, passion, and pure energy will collide for a night of unforgettable madness!

Thaikkudam Bridge is set to take you on a rollercoaster ride with their iconic hits like "Navarasam," "Fish Rock," "Aarachar," and more, blending rock, folk, and classical influences into a high-voltage performance. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a music lover looking for an exhilarating night, their electrifying set will have you headbanging, swaying, and singing at the top of your lungs!

Produced by Akar Advertising & Marketing Pvt Ltd and Hummingbird Inc Events, curated by TribeVibe, with support from print partners Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, and jewellery partner ORRA, this event promises a night where music transcends boundaries and ignites souls.

Event Details:
- **Date:** February 28, 2025
- **Venue:** Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, Bengaluru
- **Time:** 8:00 pm

Grab your tickets now on **BookMyShow** and be part of an electrifying night where rhythm meets rebellion. Bengaluru, are you ready to rock?

Airport, metro boost Yelahanka realty

Yelahanka and Attur, two rapidly developing areas in Bengaluru, are quickly becoming the best places to stay and invest in property, with a combination of affordability, green spaces, modern infrastructure, and proximity to key locations. As the city's growth expands, these neighbourhoods are becoming sought-after destinations for homebuyers.

Yelahanka has one of the greenest spaces in the city

Affordable properties

"One of the primary attractions of Yelahanka and Attur is the affordability of properties. The cost of land and residential units in these areas is relatively low, making them attractive to first-time homebuyers and investors looking for good value. With Bengaluru's real estate prices soaring in the city centre, Yelahanka and Attur offer a cost-effective alternative while still being well-connected to the city's core,", said George E, a realtor.

Green spaces

Yelahanka stands out for having one of the highest concentrations of parks and green spaces in Bengaluru. The area is home to several well-maintained parks, such as the Yelahanka Lake Park, and is also surrounded by lush greenery. "The parks in Yelahanka provide ample space for recreational activities, jogging, cycling, and family gatherings. Attur, being a quieter locality, also offers access to many local parks and recreational spaces, making it an attractive option for buyers who seek tranquillity," said Nandini Raj, a buyer.

Proximity to airport

Another significant advantage of living in Yelahanka and Attur is the proximity to Kempegowda International Airport. Yelahanka, being just 15 kilometres away from the airport, offers unparalleled connectivity for frequent flyers and business travellers. The strategic location allows residents to enjoy the convenience of being close to one of India's busiest airports while still being insulated from the noise and congestion of airport areas. This makes the area especially appealing to professionals working in the aviation, logistics, and business sectors who require regular air travel.

Modern transportation

M Saif, a realtor said, "Yelahanka is poised to become even more accessible with the introduction of metro trains, which will connect the area to the rest of Bengaluru more efficiently. The upcoming metro stations will reduce commuting time, making it easier for residents to travel to the city. This connectivity is expected to boost property values and make the area desirable. **-Prakash VL**

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B'luru tops office leasing in 2024 with 21.8m sq ft

Bengaluru emerged as the frontrunner in India's office space leasing market in 2024, recording 21.8 million sq ft of leasing activity—the highest among nine key cities—according to CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd's latest report, CBRE India Office Figures Q4 2024. The city accounted for 28% of total office absorption in the year, driven by sectors like technology, engineering and manufacturing, and flexible space operators.

"Global capability centres (GCCs) played a pivotal role in driving Bengaluru's office demand, representing 34% of total leasing activity in the city during Q4 2024," the report highlighted. Major transactions included Texas Instruments leasing 550,000 sq ft in Bagmane Cosmos Business Park and ARM India taking up 407,300 sq ft in Bagmane Constellation Business Park.

Key city trends

Pan-India office leasing reached a historic high of 79 million sq ft in 2024, marking a 16% year-on-year growth. Cities like Hyderabad (16%) and Mumbai (15%) followed Bengaluru in absorption activity. Total supply during the year stood at 52.3 million sq ft, with Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune collectively contributing 67% of the new supply. The report said that Bengaluru's office space absorption was largely non-SEZ, contributing 80% to the total, while SEZ accounted for 20%. Demand for green-certified buildings surged, with 56% of leasing activity in Q4 2024 occurring in LEED or IGBC-certified spaces.

Hyderabad led the green-certified leasing share at 27%, followed by Bengaluru (21%) and Mumbai (19%). "Sustainability is becoming a major driver of office space demand as companies prioritize energy-efficient, employee-friendly spaces," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE.

Sectoral insights

Technology firms were the largest occupiers, contributing 26% to Q4 leasing activity. Flexible space operators (21%), BFSI (17%), and engineering and manufacturing firms (9%) also showed robust demand. Domestic firms led the space take-up in 2024, accounting for 45% of total absorption, followed by companies from the Americas (34%), EMEA (16%), and APAC (5%).

"India's skilled workforce and favourable business environment continue to attract global firms, particularly in technology and BFSI sectors," said Ram Chandnani, Managing Director, Advisory & Transaction Services, CBRE India.

Outlook for 2025

The office leasing sector is poised for steady growth in 2025, buoyed by strong demand across diverse industries. GCCs are expected to remain key drivers, along with the increasing adoption of flexible spaces and sustainable buildings. Developers will focus on delivering future-ready spaces to cater to evolving occupier preferences.

"Expansionary activity in sectors like technology, BFSI, and engineering will shape leasing trends. The shift towards operational efficiency and employee well-being will drive demand for high-quality, well-located office spaces," added Chandnani.

India's office supply pipeline for 2025 is set to introduce several investment-grade assets, with Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi-NCR leading completions.

Green buildings: A rising priority

The emphasis on green-certified spaces is expected to grow further, with developers adopting eco-friendly practices to meet regulatory and investor demands. LEED and IGBC-certified buildings are anticipated to dominate the market.

Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur best bets for buying property

Investing or buying land near Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur is rapidly becoming one of the most attractive opportunities for Bengalureans. With the city's rapid urbanisation, these areas are becoming ideal locations for both residential and commercial investments. Several key factors contribute to the growing appeal of Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur, making them prime options for prospective land buyers.

Strategic location

Surendra Kumar, a realtor said, "Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur are strategically located near Bengaluru, making them highly accessible for people who want to live or work outside the city's bustling core while still being within easy reach of the metropolis. Devanahalli, for instance, is just 40 km from Bengaluru's city centre and is well-connected via major highways, including the Bengaluru-Hyderabad National Highway (NH 44)."

Rapid development

The rapid development of infrastructure in Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur is a major driving force behind their growing popularity. "In Devanahalli, the government's focus on building residential complexes, commercial spaces, and green zones is enhancing its appeal. The Devanahalli Business Hub, an upcoming IT and industrial park, is expected to create thousands of jobs in the region, further driving the demand for land and housing. Similarly, Chikkaballapur is benefiting from improved roadways, better power and water supply, and a strong push for eco-friendly living spaces," said Rajiv Gowda, a realtor.

Affordable pricing

Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur still offer relatively affordable land prices compared to the skyrocketing property rates in the heart of Bengaluru. "While Bengaluru is seeing price surges, the outskirts, including Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur, provide a great opportunity for affordable investment," said Shilpa Kumar, a buyer.

Tourism

There are many tourist and religious spots like Isha Foundation, Nandi Hills, Bhoga Nandeeshwara temple etc. The development of resorts, restaurants, and adventure tourism projects in this area has significantly boosted property demand.

–Prakash VL

City dwellers seek rural retreats

In recent years, there has been a growing demand from Bengalureans for fully developed farmlands, driven by a combination of factors ranging from lifestyle changes to investment opportunities. The urban sprawl in Bengaluru has led many city dwellers to seek respite from the hustle and bustle by investing in rural properties, offering a peaceful, nature-oriented lifestyle away from crowded city centres. "A key reason for this surge in demand is the increasing interest in sustainable living and organic farming. Many residents are now opting for farms that are not just an investment but a way to engage in agricultural activities, grow their produce, or establish organic farms. The trend is seen especially among professionals and retirees. As Bengaluru's property prices continue to soar, farmlands in and around Mysuru-Malvallai roads present an affordable alternative for those looking to diversify their investment portfolios," said a developer.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

METAMORPHOSIS

A butterfly perched on a plant is testimony to wonderful changes that occur in nature. What was once a caterpillar has transformed into a beautiful butterfly

The picture was clicked by reader **Vijita Adher**

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First-of-its-kind: SUVs now can reach you by trains

SWR introduces rakes to transport SUVs

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The South Western Railways, Bengaluru Divisions has introduced ACT1 Rake, claimed to be first-of-its-kind in the country for transporting SUVs. A railway official said, "SWR recently operated India's first ACT1 (Bogie Covered Taller Height Auto-car Carrier) rake, transporting 264 SUVs (Sport Utility Vehicles) from Penukonda to Farukh Nagar in the Gurgaon district, Haryana, generating a revenue of Rs 34 lakh to the Railways. This initiative marks a new era in the efficient, cost-effective transportation of vehicles and is expected to contribute significantly to the railway's revenue."

He said that the ACT1 rake consists of 33 specially designed wagons with a capacity to carry up to 264 SUVs. This new system is set to revolutionize the transportation of large vehicles across India, offering higher capacity compared to the existing BCACBM wagons. The innovative double-decker design of the ACT1 wagons allows SUVs to be loaded onto both decks, improving overall capacity and reducing transportation costs.

He said that The ACT1 rake supports the shift from road to rail for vehicle transport, offering a more sustainable, cost-effective, and faster solution. Each rake, with 33 ACT1 wagons, can carry up to 264 SUVs, enabling the transportation of more vehicles in a single trip.

> **"This initiative marks a new era in the efficient, cost-effective transportation of vehicless**
>
> – Railways official

The Business Development Unit (BDU) of Bengaluru Division has been instrumental in promoting rail transport to industries, stressing its cost-effectiveness, speed, and safety. This will benefit vehicle manufacturers by providing reliable and efficient logistics for their products. The ACT1 rake is expected to boost economic growth and the automotive industry. By increasing transport capacity and reducing costs, it will help move more vehicles efficiently, supporting the economy.

India's first ACT1 (Bogie Covered Taller Height Auto-car Carrier) rake was operated recently

DID YOU KNOW?

Art gallery, science exhibition and 21st century funhouse, Paradox Museum Miami takes guests on a tour through optical illusions and other enigmas geared for the age of Instagram. The 11,000-square-foot (1,000-square-meter) museum, housed in Miami's trendy Wynwood arts and entertainment district, features more than 70 exhibits that challenge the imagination, executive director Samantha Impellizeri said. "It ebbs and flows between periods of highly tactile and interactive exhibit pieces and fully immersive photo opportunities where you yourself become the paradox and walk away with some really fun and unique social media content," Impellizeri said. Paradox Museum has more than a dozen locations throughout North America, Europe and Asia. — AP

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Did Moderna's CEO confess to making a COVID vaccine before the pandemic?

The Claim: According to an Instagram post, "Moderna CEO confessed to creating the COVID-19 vaccine 2 years before the virus was released to the world. This means that they knew COVID was coming, that it was pre-planned, pre-meditated, and launched on the world for profit and power. God we pray for exposure and justice for Dr. Fauci, Bill Gates, and the pharmaceutical industry in Jesus' name. Amen!" A similar post was shared on Threads social media platform as well.

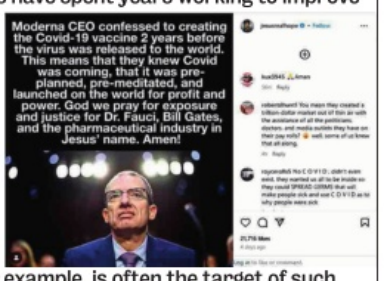
Fact Check: **Did Moderna's CEO say they made a COVID vaccine before the pandemic?** No, there's no evidence. At Davos 2023, Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel mentioned that in 2019, the company produced 100,000 doses from all its projects combined. This number covered vaccines for various health issues, such as treatments for rare diseases and cancer. It was not a stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines. His comment was about overall production levels, not about having a COVID vaccine ready in advance.

Was the COVID vaccine developed before the virus appeared? No, it was not. Moderna only started working on a COVID-19 vaccine in January 2020. In 2019, the company was busy testing several vaccine candidates for other diseases like Zika, flu, and other conditions. The 100,000 doses mentioned were from their entire vaccine portfolio, not a COVID-19 vaccine. Once the virus was identified, they quickly ramped up production to meet global demand, which explains the jump from 100,000 to a billion doses.

Is there any truth to the idea that COVID was planned for profit and power? No, this is pure misinformation. The research behind vaccines, including mRNA technology, has been going on for many years. The main aim was to improve public health, not at planning a pandemic. The rapid development of the COVID-19 vaccine was a response to an unexpected global crisis, not a premeditated move for profit or power.

Similar to this, we have debunked a previous claim which suggests that COVID-19 vaccines were a military project.

Are the accusations against public figures like Dr Fauci and Bill Gates accurate? No, these accusations are false. There is no solid evidence to support the involvement of Dr Fauci, Bill Gates, or others in a plot to profit from the pandemic. These individuals have spent years working to improve public health and manage outbreaks. They focused their efforts during the COVID-19 crisis on saving lives and controlling the spread of the virus.


Moderna CEO confessed to creating the Covid-19 vaccine 2 years before the virus was released to the world. This means that they knew Covid was coming, that it was pre-planned, pre-meditated, and launched on the world for profit and power. God we pray for exposure and justice for Dr. Fauci, Bill Gates, and the pharmaceutical industry in Jesus' name. Amen!

Despite their contributions, conspiracy theories continue to circulate. Bill Gates, for example, is often the target of such claims, including allegations that Mpox was a planned pandemic orchestrated by him and that he supports a depopulation agenda. Some even allege that a video of him discussing vaccines and depopulation was removed to hide his motives. These claims are baseless, with no credible evidence to support them. Similarly, false claims about Dr Fauci suggest he admitted that 72 essential childhood vaccines lack safety testing, which is also untrue.

THIP Media Take: The claim that Moderna's CEO confessed to creating a COVID vaccine before the pandemic is false. His remarks at Davos 2023 referred to the company's overall production numbers in 2019 and the massive scale-up needed when the pandemic hit. Moderna only began developing a COVID-19 vaccine in January 2020, after the virus emerged. There is no credible evidence to support any theory that COVID-19 was a planned pandemic for profit or power. **The story was originally published by Thip Media (https://www.thip.media/health-news-fact-check/did-modernas-ceo-confess-to-making-a-covid-vaccine-before-the-pandemic/102378/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective)**

Cow thief on the run for 23 years nabbed at last

Man was working as security guard; he had been evading court hearings

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The Doddaballapura police have arrested a man who had been evading court proceedings for over two decades in connection with a 2002 cow theft case. The accused, identified as Raju (44), was working as a security guard at Suprajit Engineering when he was finally apprehended on Thursday.

Raju, a resident of Arodi in Sasalu Hobli, had been absconding since a case was registered against him under Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2002. The complaint was filed by Munigowda, a resident of Kasaba Hobli's Ellupur village, after his cow, valued at ₹15,000, was stolen from his shed during the night.

While the initial charge sheet was filed, the case was later split, and a second charge sheet was submitted against Raju in 2006. However, he consistently evaded court hearings and was declared an LPR (Long Pending Register) accused. After years of investigation, police successfully tracked him down and arrested him. Authorities are now proceeding with legal formalities to bring the long-pending case to a conclusion.

Security agency under scrutiny

Raju's arrest has also raised serious concerns about security hiring practices. Police officials have questioned how a known offender, declared a proclaimed offender by the court, could be employed as a security guard.

Security agencies have now written to the relevant authorities, recommending the cancellation of the license of the company that hired him.

The police officer said, "Under the Private Security Agencies Regulation Act, the Internal Security Division is responsible for overseeing the licensing of security agencies. It is their duty to conduct thorough background checks before hiring security personnel. Clearly, due diligence was not followed in this case."

Officials warned that employing individuals with criminal backgrounds as security guards poses a significant threat to companies and the people relying on their services. "If an accused person is hired as a security guard, it endangers the company and its employees. Strict measures must be in place to prevent such lapses in security protocols," the officer added.

Fake Cops Dupe Businessman, Flee with ₹4 Lakh in Bengaluru

In a case of impersonation and fraud, the Jayanagar police have taken into custody two former CCB officials who allegedly posed as officers and attempted to extort Rs 4 lakh from a business in broad daylight.

The incident took place on January 5. A real estate businessman was allegedly conned by two impostors posing as police officers near Madhavan Park. The complainant, who resides alone at Prestige Coun Court Apartment in Richards Town, had sent his relative Aloka and his friend Renu to collect Rs14.5 lakh in cash from a deal.

At around 2 pm, after collecting the money, the duo was intercepted at a traffic signal by two unidentified men. One of them flashed a police ID and accused them of transporting marijuana.

Under the pretext of checking the vehicle, the other two entered the car and threatened to implicate them in a narcotics case unless they handed over money. During the ordeal, one of the accused took a bag containing Rs 4 lakh and issued death threats if the amount was not surrendered.

A complaint has been lodged with the police ASI Sageer Ahmed, head constable Yatheesh, both previously suspended, along with auto driver Shabir, who confronted a man involved in hawala transactions. Based on a tip-off, the police intervened and arrested all three individuals.

Governor rejects ordinance aimed to tackle microfinance menace

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has rejected the ordinance promulgated by the Congress-led government to tackle the Microfinancing Institutions' (MFIs) menace. Confirming the development, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the governor rejected the ordinance, stating that the punishment of 10 years and a fine of Rs 5 lakhs is "excessive."

The Governor also said that the Police could have used existing laws to control the situation. This ordinance is likely to negatively impact microfinance, which in turn, will affect the poor, the Governor opined.

Notably, the Congress-led Karnataka government on Wednesday said that it is ready to incorporate suggestions made by the Governor in connection with the Ordinance promulgated by the state government to tackle the MFIs in the state resulting in suicides and desertion of people in rural areas.

It said, "The fine amount has been increased to Rs 5 lakh so that offenders feel the full force of the law. We cannot enact a law just for the sake of it; to have a real impact, both the imprisonment provisions and the fine amount have been increased. The objective is to create a strong deterrent to prevent incidents of suicide and harassment."

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said: "The delay in issuing the Ordinance was to ensure that microfinance companies do not get an opportunity to challenge the law in court, which could result in a setback for the government. We discussed the matter in detail, and the Chief Minister directed the Law Department to take all necessary precautions. **IANS**

Torture or rehabilitation?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hegde raided the rehab centre and compiled a comprehensive report exposing the appalling conditions in September 2022.

Rehab centres thriving amid loopholes

Bengaluru has several rehabilitation centres, all of which are required to obtain a licence under the Mental Health Act and adhere to its regulations. According to sources, these centres must have a permanent doctor available daily, a psychiatrist visiting at least twice a week, and regular counselling sessions conducted by qualified professionals. Additionally, under the Act, each inmate must have an individual bed, with a ratio of one lavatory for 10 patients and one bathroom among five inmates. The facility must also maintain 24-hour CCTV surveillance, and no inmate should be assigned any form of labour, including cleaning bathrooms or lavatories.

However, this particular rehabilitation centre was licenced to accommodate only 40 individuals but housed 82 inmates. It had just 20 beds, five bathrooms, and three lavatories, falling far short of the required standards, while charging Rs 2,000 per day. The lack of regulatory oversight and official inspections has enabled widespread violations. The recent raid on this facility revealed that none of the mandated norms were being followed, highlighting the urgent need for stricter monitoring and enforcement of regulations in rehabilitation centres.

Following the findings, the SHRC recommended strict action to the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district. Subsequently, a three-member medical team was assigned to inspect the facility. Their investigation corroborated the allegations, prompting the health and family welfare department to initiate action under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Act. On Monday, authorities not only levied a fine of Rs 1 lakh but also sealed the centre to prevent further operations, bringing much-needed relief to Jeevantham and other inmates housed there.

> **"In reality, a proper rehab centre allows patients to use mobile phones, stay in touch with family**

Experts called for better care

Dr. Sachin Baliga, consultant psychiatrist at Fortis Hospital, told BM that most rehabilitation centres operate illegally, prioritising business over proper care. "Many of these centres lack the necessary licenses, trained doctors, mental health professionals, psychiatrists, and social workers," he said.

"In reality, a proper rehab centre allows patients to use mobile phones, stay in touch with family, and receive care from doctors and mental health professionals who conduct daily check-ups. Admission should always be with the patient's consent, except in rare cases where an individual becomes aggressive and requires intervention for their own well-being," he explained.

He further noted that such mistreatment often pushes individuals toward more severe addiction, leading them to relapse, develop resentment towards their families, or even cut ties and disappear, especially when admitted without their consent.

The ideal rehabilitation period, he stated, should range between three to six months, with a maximum duration of one year.

Human rights crisis ignored

Several times families admit their loved ones for treatment, unaware of the harsh conditions, only for them to suffer severe physical and mental abuse under the guise of rehabilitation. Alarming reports of deaths due to mistreatment at such facilities further emphasise the issue. The recent raid exposed violations of mandated norms, human rights and constitutional rights and justice that is delivered late. Patients' families stress on the need for stricter monitoring and enforcement and say that rehabilitation should be a service for recovery, not a profit-driven venture that endangers lives.

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40X40 south-west corner plot for sale. 16,000/sft. RHBCS 1st stage. Brokers strictly excuse. 9686111709

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sunitha B, W/o Abhishek Jain R/o 418-B, 9th Main, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040 shall be known as Sunitha Jain for all purpose.

I, SUSHANTH REDDY PABBAREDDY S/o Kodanda Ramireddy Pabbareddy, R/at No.305, Adarsh Palm Retreat Phase- 2, Devarabisanahalli, Bangalore- 560103 have changed my name to ADITYA NARAYANA SUSHANTH REDDY PABBAREDDY vide affidavit dated: 7/2/2025 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I Udita Sureshkumar D/O, Suresh Kumar R/o No 902 , Aikya Block , Olety Landmark Apartment have changed my name to Udita Suresh

I, R.A.Venkataswamy R/O Behind Municipal office, 21st ward, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur- 561207. I changed my name from R.A. Venkitaswamy to R.A.Venkataswamy for all future purposes.

I Najma Begum Babu Pasha W/O, Babu Pasha R/o No 445 6th Cross Ameen Masjid Street Venkateshpuram Rama Tent Road Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Najma Begum.

I, Swamynadhan, S/o Thiruppathi, residing at #A-301, Gina Shalom Apartments, Old Madras Road, Battarahalli, KR Puram, Bengaluru - 560049, have Changed my name to Swamynadhan Thiruppathi.

I, Vajjiram Ponnadan S/o, Ponnaiah R/o # 15, 6th Cross, 1st Block, G.s Shivarudra Road, New Mico Layout , Bommanahalli Bangalore 560068. have changed my name to Vajramuni for all purposes

I Poonam Vasant Sutar W/O, Santosh Anant Sutar R/o D801, Sumadhura Eden Garden, Doddabanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore 560067 have changed my name to Poonam Santosh Sutar.

I Vedhambal Alampallam Balakrishnan W/O, Vinod Ganeshram R/o 113, Sobha Sunflower, Basavanagar, Bangalore 560037 have changed my name to Vedhambal Vinod.

I Adarsh Chouhan S/O Narendra Pratap R/O Haraluru, Bangalore have changed my name from Adarsh Chouhan to Adarsh Chauhan for all future purposes.

I Usha Panaje W/O, S V Balaji Rao R/o Aishwarya Nilaya, No.128, Bhavani Nagar, Channanayakana Palya, Near Karnataka Flag, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru - 560073 Affidavit Dt.06/02/2025 Notary A C Subbu Swamy have changed my name to Usha.

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Bengaluru Utsava
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Ugadi Shopping Carnival
Date: 7th February to 23rd February 2025
Timing: 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivananda Circle
Bengaluru
17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
Contact: 6364685716 / 9036658774
100+ Shopping Stalls | Live Performance & More

Inclusion & diversity out
Amazon.com eliminated a reference to "inclusion and diversity" in its annual report filed Thursday

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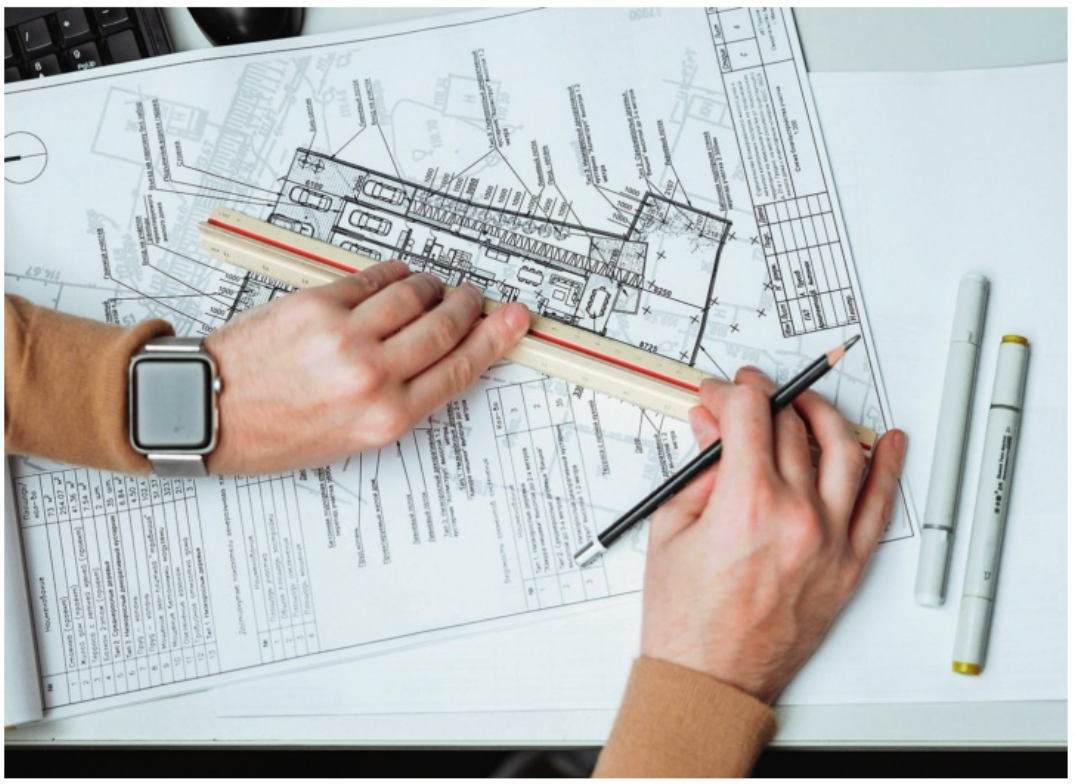
A TOOL IN THE RIGHT HANDS

How AI can help in the creative design process



Generative artificial intelligence tools can help design students by making hard tasks easier, cutting down on stress, and allowing the students more time to explore innovative ideas, according to new research I published with my colleagues in the International Journal of Architectural Computing.

I study how people think about design and use technology, and my research focuses on how tools such as AI can help make the design process more efficient and creative.

Why it matters

Our study found that AI design tools didn't just make the designs better – they also made the process easier and less stressful for students.

Imagine trying to come up with a cool idea in response to a design assignment, but it's hard to picture it in your head. These tools step in and quickly show what your idea could look like, so you can focus on being creative instead of worrying about little details.

This made it easier for students to brainstorm and come up with new ideas. The AI tools also made more design variations by introducing new and unexpected details, such as natural shapes and textures.

How we did our work

My colleagues and I worked with 40 design students and split them into two groups.

The group of students who used AI in the first task had an easier time in the second task, feeling less overwhelmed compared with those who didn't use AI

One group used AI to help design urban furniture, such as benches and seating for public spaces, while the other group didn't use AI. The AI tool created pictures of the first group's design ideas from simple text descriptions. Both groups refined their ideas by either sketching them by hand or with design software.

Next, the two groups were given a second design task. This time, neither group was allowed to use AI. We wanted to see whether the first task helped them learn how to develop a design concept.

My colleagues and I evaluated the students' creativity on three criteria: the novelty of their ideas, the effectiveness of their designs in solving the problem, and the level of detail and completeness in their work.

We also wanted to see how hard the tasks felt for them, so we measured something called cognitive load using a well-known tool called the NASA task load index. This tool checks how much mental effort and frustration the students experienced.

The group of students who used AI in the first task had an easier time in the second task, feeling less overwhelmed compared with those who didn't use AI.

The final designs of the AI group also showed a more creative design process in the second task, likely because they learned from using AI in the first task, which helped them think and develop better ideas.

What's next

Future research will look at how AI tools can be used in more parts of design education and how they might affect the way professionals work.

One challenge is making sure students don't rely too much on AI, which could hurt their ability to think critically and solve problems on their own.

Another goal is to make sure as many design students as possible have access to these tools.

(Tilanka Chandrasekera, Oklahoma State University, The Conversation)

Infosys lays off nearly 700 freshers from Mysuru campus

IT giant Infosys has laid off nearly 700 freshers from its Mysuru campus, IT employees' union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) claimed on Friday.

The union claimed that the freshers were being terminated after just a few months of being onboarded to the company.

Moreover, the terminated freshers are being made to sign confidentiality agreements, NITES said noting that it may be an attempt to suppress the details of the layoffs.

"In a shocking and unethical move, Infosys has begun forcefully laying off around 700 campus recruits who were onboarded just a few months ago," Harpreet Singh Saluja, NITES president, said in a statement.

NITES alleged that the company also deployed "bouncers and security personnel" during the termination process to intimidate employees. This was done to ensure that the employees do not "carry mobile phones and are left with no way to document the incident or seek help," Saluja claimed.

The union has expressed concerns over the abrupt nature of these terminations and the impact on the affected employees.

However, Infosys defended itself, stating that the terminated freshers failed to clear multiple internal tests that are part of the onboarding process.

"All freshers get three attempts to clear the assessment, failing which they will not be able to continue with the organisation, as is also mentioned in their contract. This process has been in existence for over two decades," the IT major said in a statement.

The company argued that these measures are necessary to ensure that only those who meet the required standards are retained.

Meanwhile, NITES said it is filing an official complaint with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, demanding immediate intervention and strict action against Infosys.

"This blatant corporate exploitation cannot be allowed to continue, and we urge the government to take swift action to uphold the rights and dignity of Indian IT workers," said Saluja. **IANS**

BITS & BYTES

NEW-AGE CRIME

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked for Centre's reply on a PIL against "new age" cyber crimes such as "digital arrests".

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhayaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela allowed the Centre four weeks' time and posted the hearing on March 19.

"Let a counter affidavit/reply be filed by the Union of India within four weeks. Rejoinder be filed within two weeks thereafter," it said. Issuing notice, the high court in 2024 asked the Centre, Delhi government, Delhi Police and Reserve Bank of India to file their responses on the plea.

AI SUMMIT IN PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will co-chair the AI Summit in Paris on Monday. Notably, France had invited India to co-lead this meeting. Earlier summits were held in London and Seoul.

The United States and China will be represented by the US Vice President and Chinese Vice Prime Minister in the meet along with industry big names, start-ups and major stakeholders in a week long meet. "Artificial Intelligence foundation is also expected to be launched during the summit, French president has called it 'action summit.' Focus of the summit will be on AI governance and make it inclusive, message behind this meeting is that all countries should get involved in the AI revolution," said diplomatic sources. **ANI**

RESEARCH FOR DEFENCE

To meet future technology challenges, the DRDO has realigned and augmented research areas, adding topics like compound semiconductor technologies, across its Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence, an official said on Friday. The realignment is expected to encourage stronger interdisciplinary, multi-institutional research collaboration engaging industry and academia, minimise duplicative efforts, and maximise resource utilisation, said the Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM) in a statement. The move will also ensure that DRDO Industry Academia – Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) contribute meaningfully. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: All women above the age of 25 should undergo Pap smear testing

Rich in nutrients, lemongrass tea clears the body of the toxins that stress can create and paves the way for better brain health

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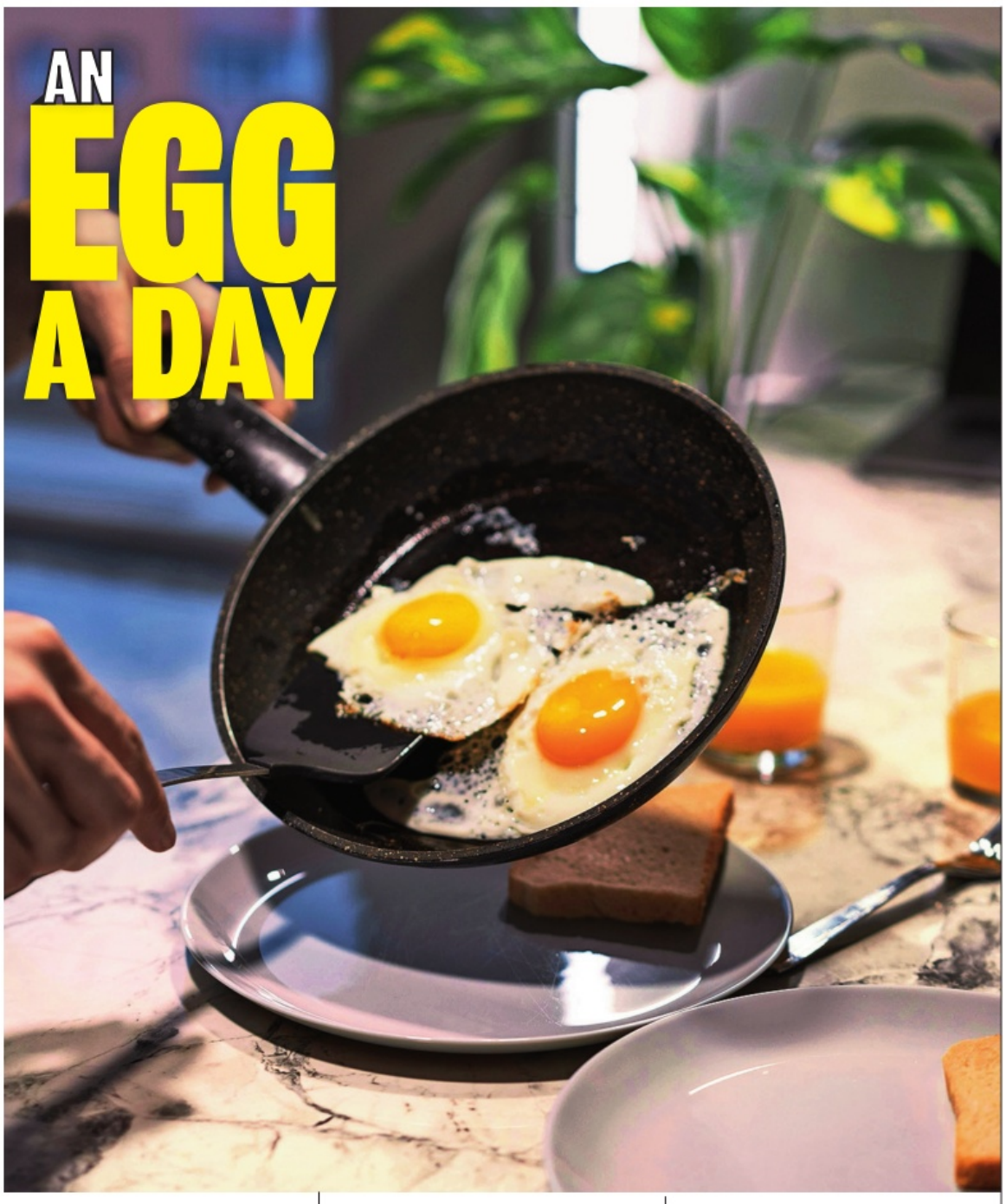


AN EGG A DAY

Are eggs good or bad for our health? What a study suggests

You might have heard that eating too many eggs will cause high cholesterol levels, leading to poor health.

Researchers have examined the science behind this myth again, and again, and again – largely debunking the claim.

A new study suggests that, among older adults, eating eggs supports heart health and even reduces the risk of premature death.

Let's unpack the details.

What was the study?

Researchers examined data from a large, ongoing study that is following older adults and tracking their health (the ASPREE study).

In their analysis of more than 8,000 people, they examined the foods people usually eat and then looked at how many participants died over a six-year period and from what causes, using medical records and official reports.

Researchers collected information on their diet through a food questionnaire, which included a question about how frequently participants ate eggs in the past year:

never/infrequently (rarely or never, 1–2 times per month)

weekly (1–6 times per week)

daily (daily or several times per day).

Overall, people who consumed eggs 1–6 times per week had the lowest risk of death during the study period (29 per cent lower for heart disease deaths and 17 per cent lower for overall deaths) compared to those who rarely or never ate eggs.

Eating eggs daily did not increase the risk of death either.

How reputable is the study?

The research was published in a peer-reviewed journal, meaning this work has been examined by other researchers and is considered reputable and defensible.

In the analysis, factors such as socioeconomic, demographic, health-related and clinical factors, and overall dietary quality were "adjusted" for, as these factors can play a role in disease and the risk of early death.

Researchers received funding from a variety of national funding grants in the United States and Australia, with no links to commercial sources.

What are the limitations of this study?

Due to the type of study, it only explored egg consumption patterns, which participants self-reported. The researchers didn't collect data about the type of egg (for example, chicken or quail), how it was prepared, or how many eggs are consumed when eaten.

This analysis specifically looked for an association or link between egg consumption and death. Additional analyses are needed to understand how egg consumption may affect other aspects of health and wellbeing.

Lastly, the population sample of older adults were relatively healthy, limiting how much findings can be applied to older adults with special needs or medical conditions.

What is ASPREE?

ASPREE (ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) is an ongoing, large, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial involving more 19,000 participants in Australia and the US. This means some people in the trial were given an intervention and others weren't but neither the participants nor the researchers knew who received the "placebo", or dummy treatment.

ASPREE started in 2010 to investigate whether low-dose aspirin (100 micrograms daily) could help prolong older adults' health and lifespan, specifically by preventing heart disease and stroke. The first findings were published in 2018.

One of the fundamental conclusions of the ASPREE trial was there was no benefit from taking aspirin to prevent cardiovascular disease (heart disease or stroke).

ASPREE is still ongoing as a longitudinal study, which means it provides information on other aspects of healthy living and long-term outcomes in older adults – in this case, the link between egg intake and the chance of death.

Why the focus on eggs?

Eggs are a good source of protein, and contain B vitamins, folate, unsaturated fatty acids, fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E and K), choline, and minerals.

The fuss over eggs comes down to their cholesterol content and how it relates to heart disease risk. A large egg yolk contains approximately 275 mg of cholesterol — near the recommended daily limit of cholesterol intake.

In the past, medical professionals warned that eating cholesterol-rich foods such as eggs could raise blood cholesterol and increase heart disease risk.

But newer research shows the body doesn't absorb dietary cholesterol well, so dietary cholesterol doesn't have a major effect on blood cholesterol levels.

Rather, foods such as saturated and trans fats play a major role in cholesterol levels.

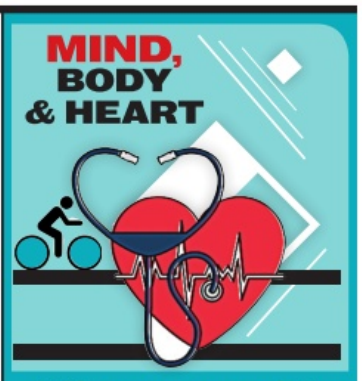
Given these changing recommendations over time, and the nuances of nutrition science, it's understandable that research on eggs continues.

What does this mean for me?

Whether you prefer boiled, scrambled, poached, baked or fried, eggs provide a satisfying source of protein and other key nutrients.

While the science is still out, there's no reason to limit egg intake unless specifically advised by a recognised health professional such as an accredited practising dietitian. As always, moderation is key.

(By Lauren Ball, The University of Queensland, Karly Bartrim, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Ab exercises

1. Plank
Start in a forearm plank position with your body in a straight line from head to heels.
Engage your core and hold for 1 minute, keeping your hips level and avoiding sagging.

2. Leg Raises
Lie flat on your back with your legs extended.
Slowly raise both legs to a 90-degree angle while keeping your core engaged.
Lower them back down without touching the ground, then repeat for 1 minute.

3. Russian Twists
Sit on the floor with your knees bent and lean back slightly.
Hold your hands together in front of you and rotate your torso from side to side, tapping the floor beside your hips each time.
Repeat for 1 minute.

4. Bicycle Crunches
Lie on your back and place your hands behind your head.
Bring your knees toward your chest and alternate touching your elbows to the opposite knee, as if pedaling a bike.
Keep a steady rhythm for 1 minute.

5. Mountain Climbers
Start in a high plank position with your arms straight and hands under your shoulders.
Drive one knee toward your chest, then quickly switch legs as if you're running in place.
Continue alternating for 1 minute.

6. Flutter Kicks
Lie on your back with your legs extended and hands under your hips for support.
Lift both legs a few inches off the ground and flutter them up and down in small, controlled motions.
Perform for 1 minute.

7. Side Plank (30 seconds each side)
Lie on your side and lift your hips to form a straight line from head to feet.
Hold the position for 30 seconds on each side, keeping your core tight.

—Purva Joshi, Femina

 # Salman 'murder plot': Bail to accused
The Bombay High Court on Friday granted bail to two men arrested last year in connection with an alleged conspiracy of the Bishnoi gang to kill Salman Khan near his farmhouse in Panvel

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MORE THAN A CRUSH

Rashmika has moved ahead of the tag 'National Crush'

Rashmika Mandanna delivered one of the biggest blockbusters in Indian cinema with Pushpa 2: The Rule in December 2024. The film went on to earn more than Rs 1,200 crore in India. With its OTT release, it has once again become the talk of the town.

The year, however, began on a difficult note for the actress, as she injured her foot during a gym session and has been advised to rest by doctors.

Rashmika has an impressive lineup of films, including Chhava, led by Vicky Kaushal; Sikander, starring Salman Khan; and Thama, featuring Ayushmann Khurrana, which is part of Dinesh Vijan's production. She also has Kubera alongside Dhanush and The Girlfriend, which rests entirely on her shoulders. The actress is gradually making her mark in Hindi cinema, especially after her role in Ranbir Kapoor and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal. Though she is still widely considered India's "National Crush," Rashmika reveals that she has moved on from that tag.

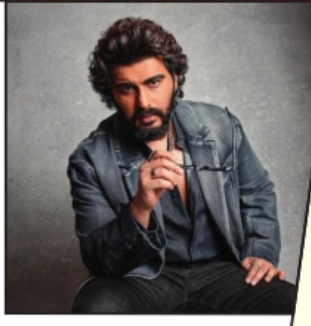
In an exclusive interview with ETimes, she said, "The National Crush title actually began with my film Kirik Party (2016). Back then, I was the crush of the whole college, which later became the Karnataka crush, and eventually, the National Crush. Today, with all the love I am receiving, I feel I have moved on from that. Now, when people say, 'You are the love of the nation' or 'You are in everyone's hearts,' it feels even more special. I feel like I am now rooted in their lives and hearts, and I'm just upping the game." — **ETimes**

'My mother had to give up her dreams...'

At the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Angelina Jolie shared a personal memory from her past, recounting a moment involving her mother, Marcheline Bertrand, and the Oscars. Jolie was there to receive the prestigious Maltin Modern Master Award, presented by filmmaker Ava DuVernay, and engage in a conversation with critic Leonard Maltin.

The actress began by recalling the year her father, Jon Voight, won the Academy Award for Best Actor for 'Coming Home' in 1979. At the time, Voight was separated from Bertrand, Jolie's mother, and their divorce was finalised a year later. While Voight attended the star-studded Oscars ceremony with actress Stacey Pickren, the "other woman," Jolie's mother was at home with her two children. "My mom was home with two little kids," Jolie shared, adding, "I believe my mother's mother's dream was to be an actor, which is probably why she took me to the theater in Chicago all the time." — **ANI**

Revisiting an 'old friend'



Actor Arjun Kapoor, who is all set to be seen in the romantic-comedy film "Mere Husband Ki Biwi", says stepping back into the genre is like "revisiting an old friend."

"I've been fortunate that the audience has loved and accepted me in the romance genre in films like 2 States, Ki & Ka, and other films. It's good to be doing something in the lighthearted zone. I hope the audiences shower me with the same kind of love and acceptance for Mere Husband Ki Biwi," said Arjun, who has previously worked in films such as '2 States' and 'Ki & Ka'. The actor, who was last seen as Danger Lanka in 'Singham Again', added: "After playing Danger Lanka in Singham Again, its great to step back into the rom-com space. It's like revisiting an old friend."

Arjun said that he has always loved stories that bring warmth, laughter, and love to the screen, and "Mere Husband Ki Biwi" film does exactly that.

"My goal is to make content that the audience likes and enjoys, so I'm happy to be doing a project in this space," he added. —**IANS**

Waiting for a new look

Actress Sobhita Dhulipala has heaped praise on her husband Naga Chaitanya and said that she will finally see his clean-shaven face.

Sobhita took to her Instagram stories, where heaped praise on Chaitanya and his film "Thandel", which releases today.

"#Thandel release day tomorrow! Excitement I have seen you be so focused and positive through the making of this film, can't wait for everyone (and myself) to experience this extra-ordinary love story in the theatres from tomorrow," she wrote alongside a picture of Chaitanya from the film.

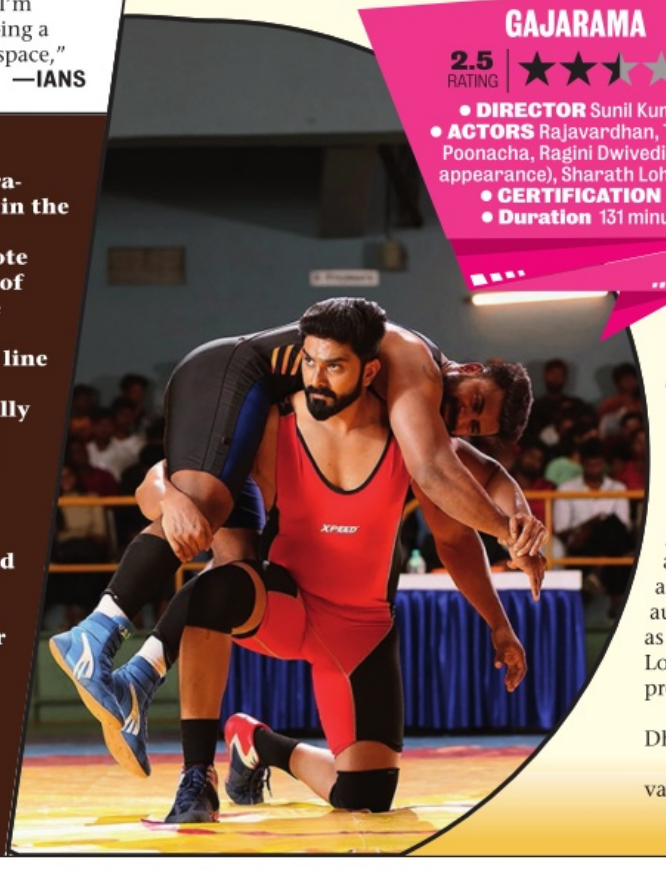
She then wrote a line in Telugu, which translates to: " Finally you will shave your beard and I will see your face. @ chayakkineni."

Chaitanya and Sobhita recently tied the knot with their wedding ceremony being a grand affair in Hyderabad. The event saw the top personalities of the Telugu industry attending the celebrations.

—IANS

Love & misunderstanding

GAJARAMA
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sunil Kumar VA
- **ACTORS** Rajavardhan, Tapaswini Poonacha, Ragini Dwivedi (special appearance), Sharath Lohitashwa
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 131 minutes



Director Sunil Kumar has packed the film with elements such as wrestling, human trafficking, love, romance, action, and an item number to entertain the audiences. He also managed to get veteran music director Mano Murthy not only to score peppy tunes but also rope in well-known playback singers.

The movie begins with a concerned mother searching for her son Rama (Rajavardhan). The director introduces a flashback scene narrating how Rama has been possessive about Anjali (Tapaswini Poonacha) and the circumstances that made Anjali to go to Bengaluru to pursue higher studies and how Anjali's marriage is arranged with Assistant Commissioner of Police Pratap (Deepak). The audiences are also told how Rama got trained by Rudrappa (Sharath Lohitasva) in wrestling. Rama comes to Bengaluru to participate in a wrestling competition. He wants to meet Anjali. What happens to Anjali and Rama is what Gajarama is all about.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Rajavardan has improved a lot when compared to his previous movies. He is at his best in action scenes, especially in wrestling. He needs to hone his dancing skills though. Tapaswini Poonacha looks good and has acted well. Deepak of Shishya fame is convincing as a tough cop. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. Ragini Dwivedi's special appearance as Saaraayi Shanthamma is a treat for front-benchers and mass audiences. Kabir Dulhan has acted well as the vicious villain. Sharath Lohitashwa, Bala Rajwadi, Tukai Santosh provide good support.

Mano Murthy's music and Master Dhanu's choreography are appreciable.

It is a fun watch for entertainment value.

—**Y Maheswara Reddy**

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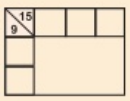
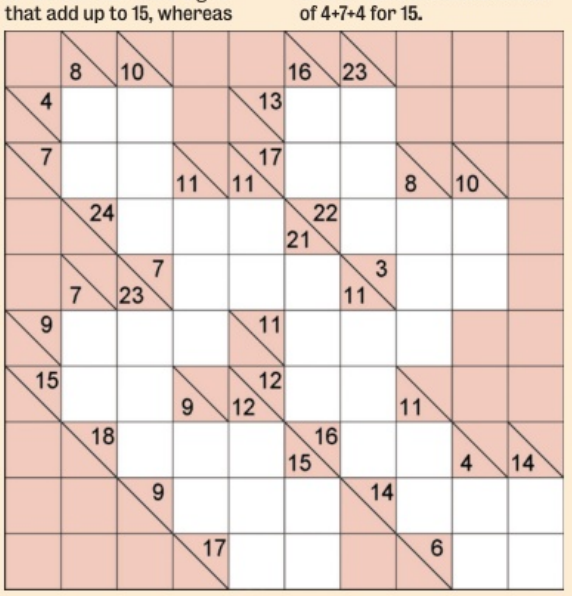
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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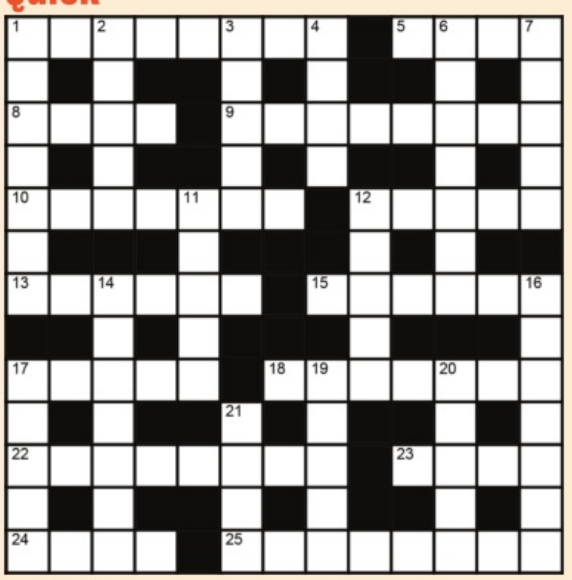


ACROSS

1 Cordial (8)
5 Distinctive air (4)
8 Disastrous defeat (4)
9 State of dampness (8)
10 Notes or messages (7)
12 Waste matter (5)
13 Biked (6)
15 Cuisine which is a fusion of Kodava and Mangalorean (6)
17 Unclean or filthy (5)
18 Solidify (7)
22 Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece (4,4)
23 Vehicle for hire (4)
24 Abolished Indian custom (4)
25 Popular breakfast fare (5,3)

DOWN

1 Man-made fibre (7)
2 Eskimo (5)
3 Patna locale (5)
4 Jane Austen heroine (4)
6 Mythical equine (7)
7 Bottomless gulf (5)
11 Foe or adversary (5)
12 Empty of liquid (5)
14 A small crown (7)
16 Searching in depth, digging? (7)
17 Ditches (5)
19 Giraffe relative (5)
20 Outsmart or dodge (5)
21 Petty quarrel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS U

LTQH SXY WQI IX ITQ QHO XA SXYZ ZXRQ, IFQ M BHXI MHO TMHW XH.

Linemaro

On a scale of 1 to 10, you are 9, and I am the 1 you need

Mindchow

The only people who like change are wet babies

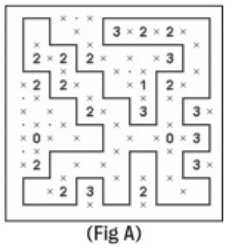
Joke of the day

It's funny how in some cultures, the animals we keep as pets, others eat!
Like did you know in Japan they eat fish?

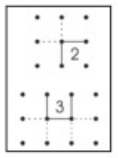
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



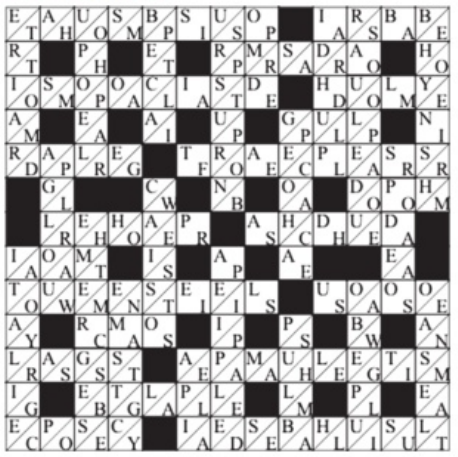
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

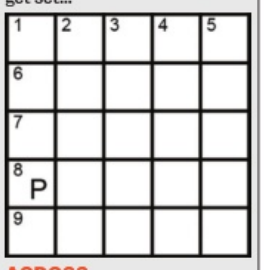
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Busts; 6 E teen; 7 Arab a; 8 Or rip; 9 Sharp

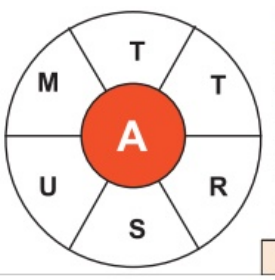
DOWN

1 Paths; 2 Err at; 3 A ruin; 4 PE Bob; 5 Tsars

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

2	1	9	7
2	7	4	4
3	3	7	5
4	0	9	?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

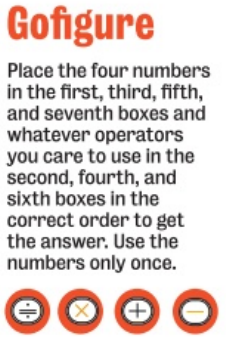
SudokuChallenge

			7		9	4		
	1	2			5	7		
				2			5	3
		9	5					4
4			9		2			5
6					4	8		
1	6			5				
		4	8			3	2	
		8	3		1			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



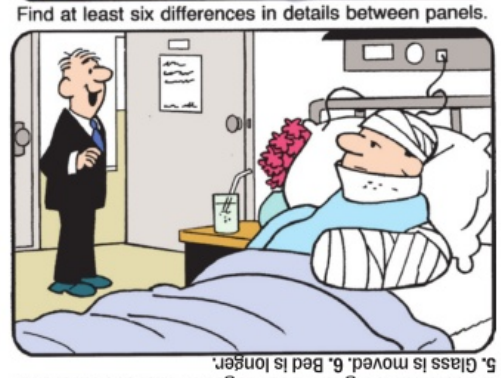
Easy = 3
2 5 8 8

Medium = 32
2 5 7 8

Hard = 20
3 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



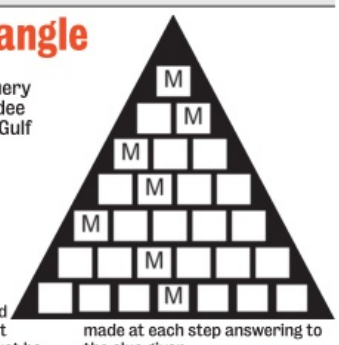
Differences: 1. Fingers are not showing. 2. Man is moved. 3. Doorknob is higher. 4. Bandages on cast are different. 5. Glass is moved. 6. Bed is longer.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Deputy Pair Pencil Silver Medal

Alpha triangle

1 Bond's boss
2 Start of Cain's query
3 Stag party attendee
4 Sultanate on the Gulf
5 Mansion
6 Gypsy
7 Concord

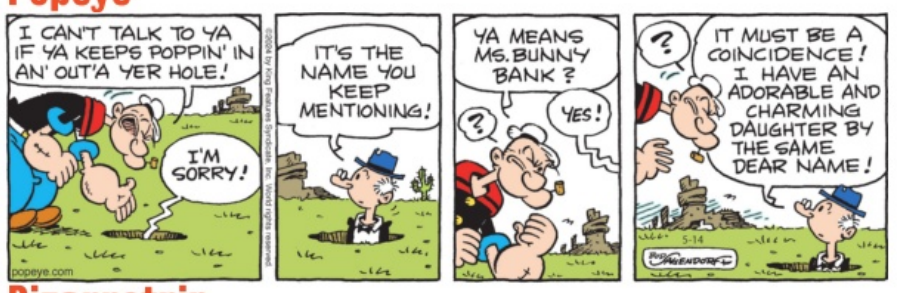


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I CAN'T TALK TO YA IF YA KEEPS POPPIN' IN AN' OUT'A YER HOLE!
I'M SORRY!
IT'S THE NAME YOU KEEP MENTIONING!
YA MEANS MS. BUNNY BANK ?
YES!
IT MUST BE A COINCIDENCE! I HAVE AN ADORABLE AND CHARMING DAUGHTER BY THE SAME DEAR NAME!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

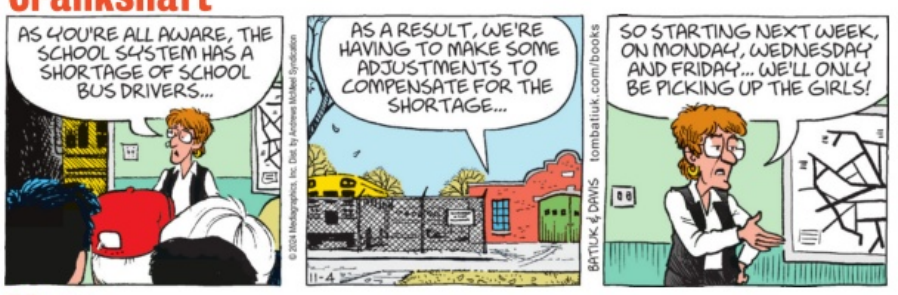
Wayno & 3 Piers 11·4·24
The rose petal and aloe mask conceals my identity AND provides soothing hydration.
CRIME & REPLENISHMENT
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

BOOK REPORT DUE TODAY!
I FORGOT. NO, WAIT. MY DOG ATE IT. ER... I MEAN, IT WAS ACCIDENTALLY THROWN AWAY.
HAHA, YOU SHOULD JUST WRITE A REPORT ABOUT ALL YOUR EXCUSES.
DO YOU THINK I COULD GET CREDIT FOR THAT?
AUUGGHH, I DIDN'T DO MY BOOK REPORT.
WHY NOT?

Crankshaft


AS YOU'RE ALL AWARE, THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS A SHORTAGE OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS...
AS A RESULT, WE'RE HAVING TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE SHORTAGE...
SO STARTING NEXT WEEK, ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY... WE'LL ONLY BE PICKING UP THE GIRLS!
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

SHELTER STORIES
"SHEMP"
THIS IS NATIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER APPRECIATION WEEK.
WHY NOT GO VISIT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER AND TAKE A LOOK AT US "OLDER" DOGS
WE'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for you, and your enthusiasm may be at its peak. However, you need to regulate it wisely. Self-analysis may help boost your confidence, enhancing your prestige in society. Your communication skills will enable you to resolve various issues effectively. Investors are advised to avoid speculative decisions before making investments. You may also consider higher studies to advance your career.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may struggle to enjoy both your work and personal life. Avoid arrogance and ego while interacting with your spouse, which could affect your emotional bond. Issues in partnerships are likely to be resolved. Singles are advised not to rush into marriage-related decisions. With patience, you will be able to navigate through any challenging situation.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may successfully implement business plans with the support of your subordinates. Attending social or family gatherings could help expand your professional network. A short business trip may be on the cards, bringing potential benefits shortly.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for your financial health. Past investments may yield benefits, and you may gain control over unnecessary expenses, boosting your savings. Lovebirds should communicate politely with their partners to avoid conflicts.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be occupied with issues related to your siblings and relatives. You might plan to start a new venture with their support. An upcoming business order may boost your family business, and your network will play a crucial role in completing tasks successfully. Smart efforts may lead to significant gains.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today may not be a favourable day for you. Negative thoughts and impatience might trouble you. Arrogance may prevent you from making important decisions, making you feel stuck in life. Seeking blessings from elders may help you overcome these difficulties. Avoid investing in dead assets, and lovebirds should refrain from discussing trivial matters.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
At the beginning of the day, you may struggle with focus, but with the blessings of elders, you will gain control over the situation. You may find essential resources needed to complete a project successfully. Your sources of income are likely to increase, and past losses may turn into profits, improving your financial health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may expect a significant order from a new client, which will improve liquidity in your business. You are likely to meet an influential person who could help expand your business. Your bond with your boss may strengthen, increasing the likelihood of a promotion. Your prestige and reputation may also rise.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by your elders, who will bring patience and calmness to your thoughts. You are likely to feel happy and peaceful. A visit to a spiritual place may bring inner peace, and you may consider donating to religious or charitable causes. There is also a possibility of overseas travel.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and face minor health issues that could affect your daily routine. You may experience mysterious fears, making you sensitive and emotional. Avoid rash driving and adventure trips. You may also feel drawn toward spiritual or occult practices. Visiting a religious place and engaging in prayers or chanting mantras may bring relief.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may enjoy quality time with your family. Romantic moments with your spouse will strengthen your relationship. You may spend money on home renovations or purchasing artefacts. Social events and parties may bring joy. However, be cautious and read documents carefully before investing in fixed assets.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel happy and energetic. Self-exploration and analysis will boost your confidence, making you fearless in tackling challenges. However, exercise patience when making financial decisions related to business. Lovebirds will enjoy their happy moments together.

KIDZONE

Aditi, Bengaluru

Harighna, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
They are all associated with the number two.

RIDDLER
2·(3!) – 3² × 2²=
64 – 36 = 28

BULL'S EYE
mart, mast, smart, star, start, STRATUM, tart, taut, tram, tsar

FAST FIVE

S	T	U	B	S
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	A	B	A
P	R	I	O	R
H	A	R	P	S

STRIKE OUT

T	H	U	M	B	S	U
C	O	S	Y	I	D	E
D	A	R	E	F	R	E
I	M	P	O	L	I	T
R	P	E	P	R	A	D
I	E	T	A	P	E	M
L	A	G	S	E	P	A
A	R	A	S	P	P	P
T	W	E	N	T	I	E
I	O	M	I	P	E	A
L	E	H	A	R	A	C
G	W	N	A	D	O	H
A	E	A	U	P	U	L
I	M	P	O	L	I	T
A	R	A	B	A	D	O
S	T	A	T	U	M	S

QUICK

A	M	I	C	A	B	L	E		A	U	R	A		
C		N		I		M		B		N		B		
R	O	U	T		H	U	M	I	D	I	T	Y		
Y		I		A		U		P		C		S		
S	A	T	I		F	R	I	E	D	E	G	G		

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Working in rows, from top to bottom, and reading each row as a 4 digit number, rows follow the sequence of Cube Numbers, from 13 to 16.

QUOTE UNCODE
When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

SUDOKU

3	5	6	7	1	9	4	8	2
2	9	8	3	4	1	5	6	7
5	7	4	8	9	6	3	2	1
1	6	3	2	5	7	9	4	8
6	2	5	1	7	4	8	3	9
4	3	1	9	8	2	6	7	5
7	8	9	5	6	3	2	1	4
9	4	7	6	2	8	1	5	3
8	1	2	4	3	5	7	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Man, Oman, Manor, Romany, Harmony.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 8 – 2 – 8 = 3
Medium
7 + 2 – 5 × 8 = 32
Hard
3 × 7 – 5 + 4 = 20

LOOP

KAKURO

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